

Introduction to the State of CT Department of Children and Families



Ted Sanford
Director of Program Monitoring and Fiscal Review

Susan Cunningham, LCSW,
Program Director Contracts and Fiscal Division

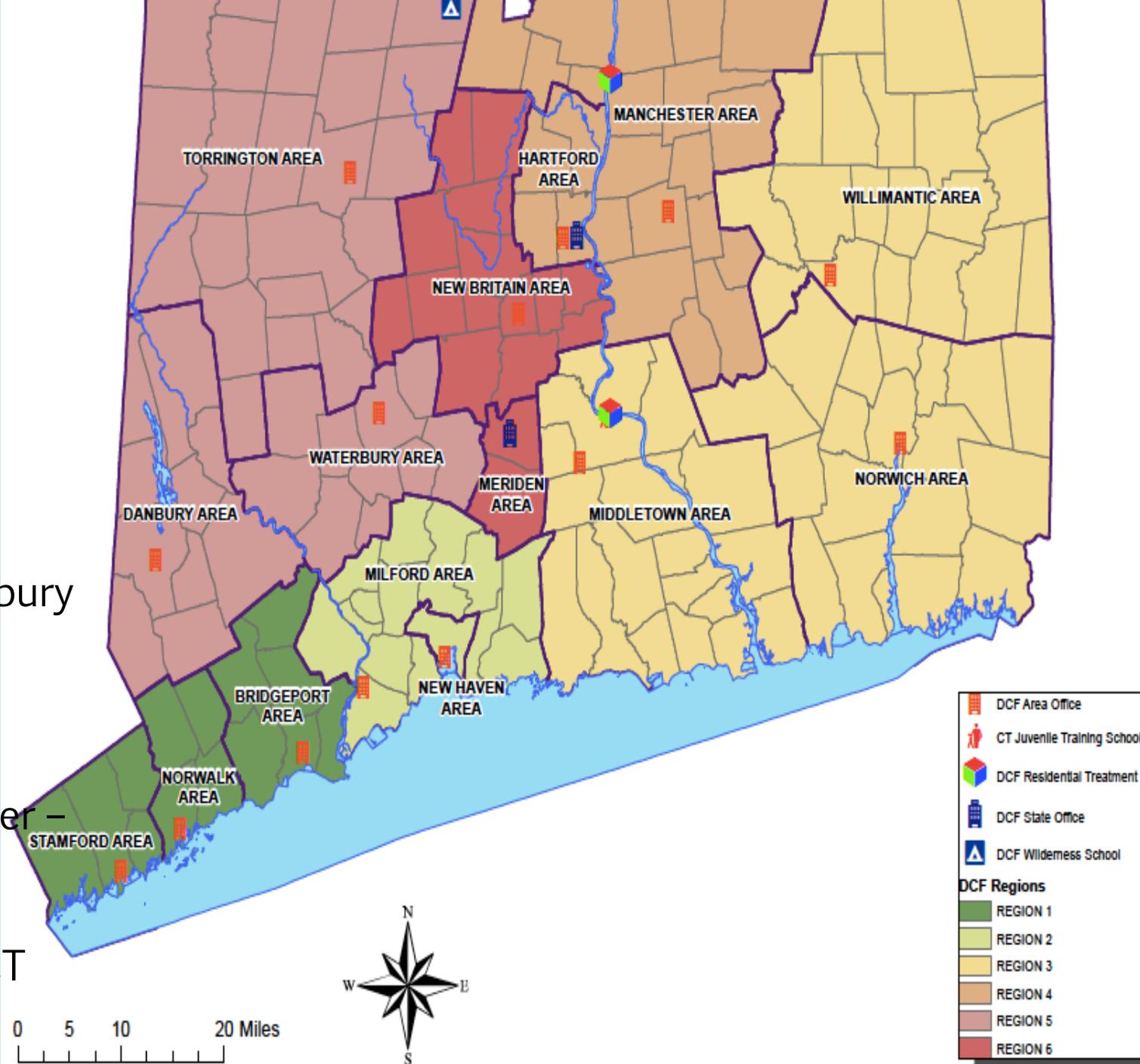
Regions and Facilities

Regional/Area Offices

- Region 1: Bridgeport, Norwalk
- Region 2: Milford, New Haven
- Region 3: Middletown, Norwich, Willimantic
- Region 4: Hartford, Manchester
- Region 5: Danbury, Torrington, Waterbury
- Region 6: Meriden, New Britain

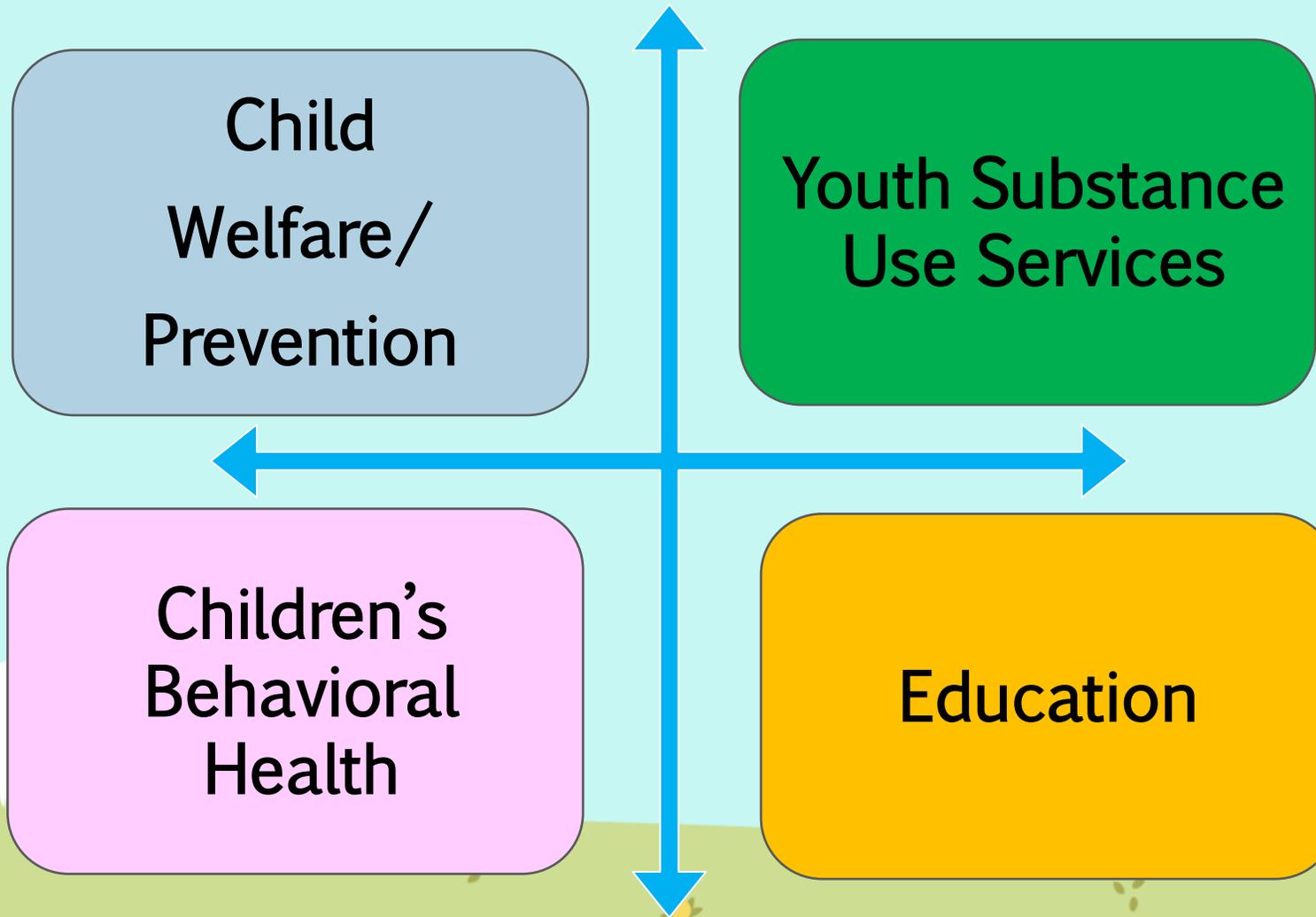
Facilities

- The Solnit Children's Psychiatric Center –
North Campus– East Windsor, CT
South Campus – Middletown, CT
- Wilderness School – East Hartland, CT



Branches of the Department of Children and Families

DCF Legislative Mandates, Responsibilities and Oversight:



DCF's Aspirational Goals

Children will live safely with their families

Children will live with relatives, kin, or someone they know

Children will live with a family

Children will be in congregate care settings rarely, and briefly

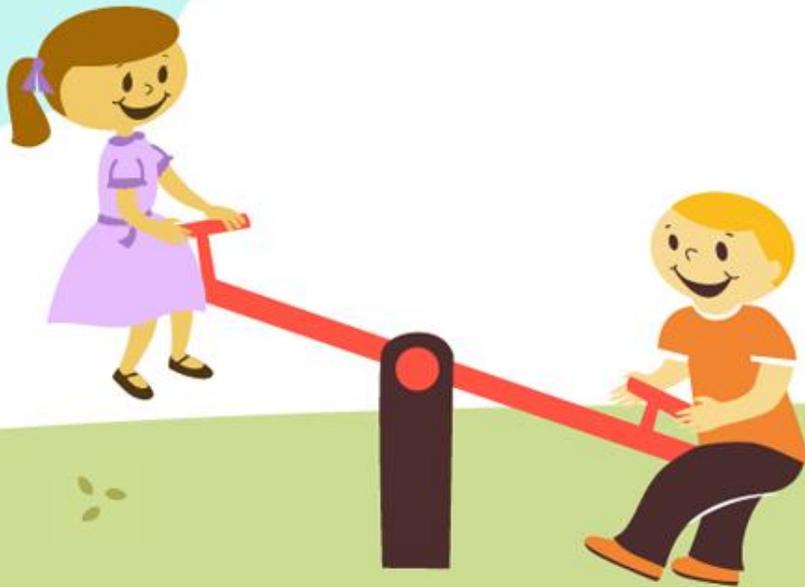
Children will experience timely permanency

Children in care will be better off – healthy, safe, smart, & strong

Youth who age out will be prepared for success



Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)



Provisions of FFPSA

- Helps to prevent abuse and neglect by expanding the system's focus and resources with supportive services.
- Opportunity to respond to the specific needs.
- Investment in prevention practices for children at risk of entering the foster care system.
- Ensuring parents have the supports needed.
- Offers states and tribes access to additional federal funding.



Connecticut's Family First Prevention Plan

Upstream approach to prevent child maltreatment and families requiring child welfare involvement.

Enhancement of existing Evidence-Based Programs available within local communities so families can remain safely together.

Establishment of standards and oversight for children requiring placement in residential treatment settings.

Coordinated approach to supporting kinship providers.

Cross-system collaboration and partnerships emphasize equitable access and outcomes.



DCF's Contracted Services – How big is it?

93 Community Providers

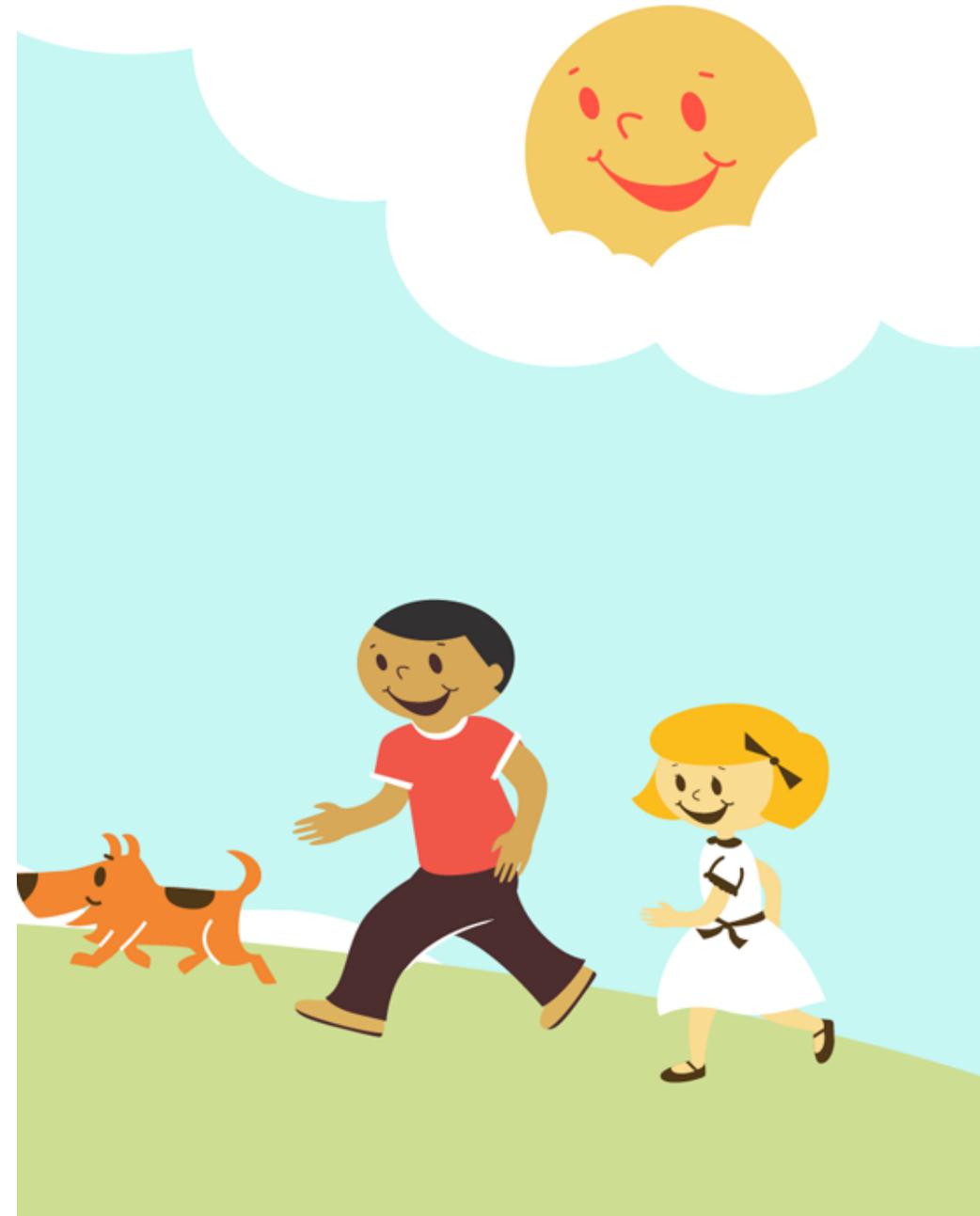
- Individual non-profit agencies
- Operating between 1 to 40 programs

80 Service Types

- Categories of Services
- Different programs may fall under same service type

337 Individual Programs

- Each program/service type operated by our providers
- Wheeler SAFE FR, the CMHA MDT program, etc.



Services that DCF pays for but families do not need DCF involvement to access – 30 Service Types!

Emergency Mobile
Psychiatric
Services

Outpatient
Psychiatric Clinic
for Children

Multisystemic
Therapy

Intensive In-home
Adolescent
Psychiatric Services

Substance
Screening,
Treatment and
Recovery for Youth

Healthy Families
America

Functional Family
Therapy

Child First

Extended Day
Treatment

Multidimensional
Family Therapy

Parent's As
Teachers

Care Coordination

Parenting Support
Services

Voluntary Care
Management

- Parent or guardian calls DCF Careline.
- Family information is sent to Carelon.
- Family is assigned a case manager to assess needs.
- Referrals are made to community services.
- Out of home care is a final resort and is very rarely considered as a treatment option.

Voluntary Care Management

Formerly

DCF Voluntary Services



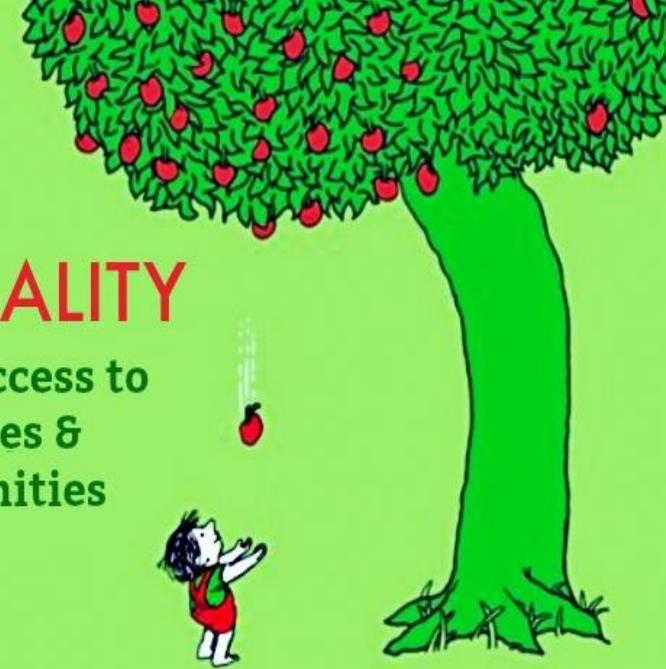
Under Development...

Racial Justice Provider Institute (RJI)

- 2-year AARPA funded statewide contract awarded to Urban Community Alliance, Inc.
- Contract is to design and implement the Racial Justice Institute for Community Providers (RJI).
- The RJI will:
 - Lead the advancement of DCF's racial justice mandate with externally.
 - Create opportunities for training and support to community providers with the goals of equitable service delivery.
 - Design marketing strategy to increase grassroots organization responsiveness to DCF contract and grant opportunities

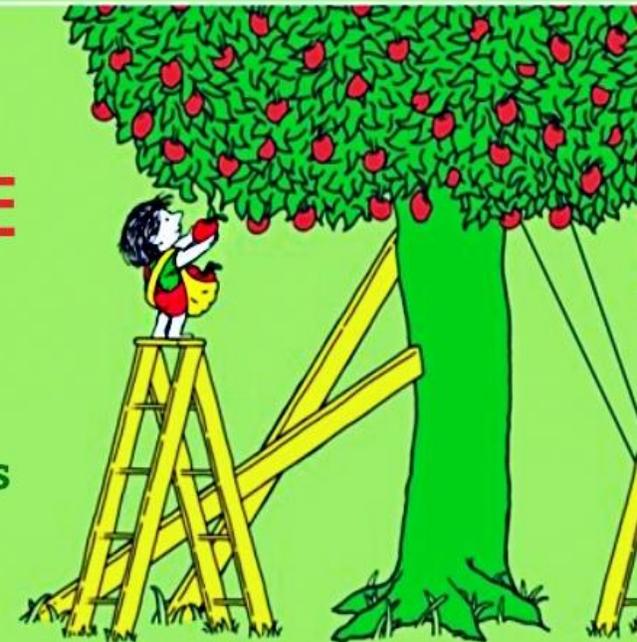
INEQUALITY

Unequal access to
resources &
opportunities



JUSTICE

Fixing the
system to
provide
equal access



Nexus Between NRZs and DCF

- DCF interfaces with the families within NRZ communities.
- DCF is working on building resource networks for families to prevent involvement with child welfare.
- Racial Justice Institute's work will target grassroots and community providers.
- NRZs and DCF can collaborate to share information regarding work happening in communities.
- NRZs access to families is a way to share prevention services information in a voice other than DCFs.



Next Steps?

